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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIGO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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14 July 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: METHODS OF IDENTIFYING OPTIMAL VARIANTS OF PEPTIDE EPITOPE

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to methods for selecting a variant of a peptide epitope which induces a CTL response against another variant(s) of the peptide epitope, by determining whether the variant comprises only conserved residues, as defined herein, at non-anchor positions in comparison to the other variant(s). The present invention is also directed to variants identified by the methods above; peptides comprising such variants; nucleic acids encoding such variants and peptides; cells comprising such variants, and/or peptides, and/or nucleic acids; compositions comprising such variants, and/or peptides, and/or nucleic acids, and/or cells; as well as therapeutic and diagnostic methods for using such variants, peptides, nucleic acids, cells, and compositions.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09510

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : G06F 19/00  
US CL : 702/19

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 702/19

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	YUSIM et al. Clustering Patterns of Cytotoxic T-Lymphocyte Epitopes in Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1 (HIV-1) Proteins Reveal Imprints of Immune Evasion on HIV-1 Global Variation. JOURNAL OF VIROLOGY. Sept. 2002, Vol. 76 No. 17, pages 8757-8768, see entire article.	1-15 and 23-28
A	FERRARI et al. AIDS RESEARCH AND HUMAN RETROVIRUSES. Identification of Highly Conserved and Broadly Cross-Reactive HIV Type 1 Cytotoxic T Lymphocyte Epitopes as Candidate Immunogens for Inclusion in Mycobacterium bovis BCG-Vectored HIV Vaccines. Vol. 16 No. 14, pages 1433-1443, see entire article.	1-15 and 23-28

<input type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input type="checkbox"/>	See patent family annex.
*	Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
01 April 2005 (01.04.2005)	04 MAY 2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US	Authorized officer
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450	Marianne DiBrino, Ph.D. Telephone No. 571-272-1600

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/09510

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
They are improper multiple dependent claims or depend upon improper multiple dependent claims. A multiple dependent claim cannot depend upon another multiple dependent claim.
  
3.  Claims Nos.: 16-22, 29 and 30  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

  

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US04/09510

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:  
STN(BIOSCIENCE, INCLUDES USPATFUL)

search terms: inventors' names, optimal variants of peptide epitopes, variant, peptide, epitope, motif, supermotif, hiv, hbv, hcv, hpv, influenza, dengue, falciparum, conserved, conservative, anchor, non-anchor, nonanchor